

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Qwest Corporation Petition For	)	WC Docket No. 04-223
Forbearance Pursuant To	)	
47 U.S.C. § 160(c)	)	

**COMMENTS OF THE  
IOWA UTILITIES BOARD**

Comes Now the Iowa Utilities Board (Iowa) and, pursuant to the pleading cycle established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) on June 25, 2004, offers the following comments in this matter.

On June 21, 2004, Qwest Corporation filed a petition pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160 (2002) asking that the Commission forbear from applying the requirements of 47 U.S.C. §§ 251(c) and 271(c)(2)(B)(I-vi) to Qwest's provision of telecommunications services in the Omaha, Nebraska, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). In support of its petition, Qwest asserts that it has lost its market power and dominant status in the Omaha MSA due to competition from facilities-based wireline carriers, intermodal competitors such as cable television providers, and commercial mobile radio service providers. As a result, Qwest argues it should be relieved of the specified regulatory requirements.

The Omaha MSA includes Pottawattamie County in Iowa, which includes (among other communities) the City of Council Bluffs, with a population in excess of 54,000. As such, Iowa has an unique interest in Qwest's proposal. However,

on May 7, 2004, Iowa commenced its own proceeding to consider telecommunications deregulation in the various Iowa local exchanges, including the Council Bluffs exchange, in Re: Deregulation Of Local Exchange Services In Competitive Markets, Docket No. INU-04-1, "Order Initiating Notice And Comment Proceeding." (A copy of the order is attached to these comments as Attachment A.) **[Insert brief description of what we propose for Council Bluffs and basis.]**

The Iowa proceeding was commenced, in part, on the basis of a local exchange competition survey report published by Iowa on February 26, 2004. (A copy of the survey report is attached to these comments as Attachment B.)

**[Insert brief description of salient points from the survey report.]**

Because of this ongoing proceeding, Iowa cannot comment on the merits of Qwest's petition at this time. However, final action in Docket No. INU-04-1 is expected to occur before the end of the calendar year; Iowa will file updated comments, including a copy of any final decision issued in the Iowa proceeding, shortly thereafter.

### **Conclusion**

The Iowa Utilities Board appreciates the opportunity to comment upon the petition for forbearance filed by Qwest Corporation on June 21, 2004. Iowa will submit further comments when and as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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July \_\_, 2004